

NOTES AND QUERIES

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1. TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.—1945 was so full of excitement that there was no time to remember anniversaries. What with V.E. Day and V.J. Day, the Dissolution of Parliament, and the Labour Victory at the Polls, men's minds were busy enough.

It was possible to persuade the *Spectator* to commemorate the 650th anniversary of King Edward I's Model Parliament of 1295, but no one seemed interested in Julius Caesar. And yet it was exactly 2000 years since in 55 B.C. he landed in Britain; while in the next year, he crossed the Thames at one of seven spots suggested, and advanced up the old British trackway called Sarn Gwddelliñ, and later on Watling Street. Our recent excavations at Sulloniaceae are a reminder of the extent to which this highway was used by Romans for four centuries.

2. COOPER'S ROW.—Mr. George E. Page has been kind enough to point out some inaccuracies in item 17 in our last issue regarding the Roman Wall in London. "The wall forms the east wall of the warehouse in Cooper's Row, and is not under the pavement. It can be seen above ground from the crescent in the Minories. Most of the wall which is to be seen above ground must be centuries later than Roman times, and the patrol path in Cooper's Row certainly comes within this category.

There are other remnants of the wall nearby, one near the White Tower, another good mediæval piece near Trinity House in Trinity Place, and a third in the basement of Roman Wall House; and there may be other pieces of it between the Tower and Aldgate."

3. CONEY WARRENS AT STANMORE.—We are grateful to Mr. Gilbert F. Cole, of 44, Gyles Park, Stanmore, Middlesex, for notes on a Mediæval Coney Warren on Stanmore Common.

Referring to the six-inch ORDNANCE SURVEY map marked Hertfordshire, Sheet XLIV S.E., Middlesex, Sheet V.S.E., it will be noticed that two streams meet almost on the 400 ft. contour line at a point where the latter forms an acute angle. The warren lies in a S.W. direction (230 degrees from magnetic N.) with its N.W. corner approximately 92 yards from the junction of the streams.

The warren is rectangular in form, with quite well defined sides, ends and corners, and is surrounded by a clearly visible ditch. The dimensions are as follows:—

	ft.	in.
Length (centre of ditch to centre of ditch) ..	141	6
Breadth " " " " ..	38	6
Height (above ground level)	1	6
Depth of ditch	1	0

(All the above are approximate.)

The longitudinal axis points $22\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. of magnetic N.; and at a distance of approximately 63 yards from the S.W. corner, in a S.W. direction (230 degrees from magnetic N.) lies the tumulus-like mound known locally as the "Fox-Earth." It is quite possible that this latter mound is the remains of a tumulus, for there are records of others in the neighbourhood.

The coney warren is an isolated earthwork, and, although there are signs and records of a considerable amount of gravel digging having been carried out on Stanmore Common in the past, it is some distance from these, and appears to be on an undisturbed part of the Common.

Early writers occasionally referred to these artificial warrens of the Middle Ages in their literature, and it is interesting to find one, apparently, in Stanmore. I am examining one or two other similar mounds in the same neighbourhood.

April, 1948, made it possible to inspect a triple Coney-Warren, and remains of other warrens on Stanmore Common and in the grounds of "Warren House," Wood Lane, Stanmore.

Since writing the report, dated February, 1948, on "A Mediæval Coney Warren on Stanmore Common," I have measured other somewhat similar markings or mounds in the same vicinity. All these earthworks have two facts in common, i.e. they are rectangular in plan, and are surrounded (with the exception of the two in "Warren House" grounds) by a ditch which would seem to have been formed by the removal of soil for the construction of the mound, and in order to increase the effective height of the mound.

The triple warren lies 117 degrees S.E. of magnetic North, and approximately 200 yards from "Belswood Cottage" at the junction of Heathbourne Road and Magpie Hall Road, Bushey Heath.

			ft. in.	
Length (ditch to ditch)	approx.	195	0	
Breadth	"	90	0	
Height above ground level	"	2	0 to	
			2	6

The angle of its long axis from magnetic North is 300 degrees. Approximately 100 yards N.E. of this earthwork, and lying at an angle of 20 degrees E. of magnetic N. are what may be the remains of a single warren, indicated by a rectangle of ditches, approximately 180 ft. by 39 ft. There is little or no sign of a mound, but there are signs that soil has been removed after the ditches were dug. The ditches are quite well defined.

In the extreme N.E. corner of the Common are remains of an earthwork of a past date which have a somewhat similar appearance to the previously mentioned works, i.e. parallel ditching. As a great deal of the bracken has been cleared from the Common by burning recently, these workings can be seen at present very clearly. In "Cloister Wood" on Warren House estate is a small bank of earth which appears to have been shaped for a similar purpose, and which, at the same time, conforms with the natural lie of the land. There is no ditch round this bank. In Pear Wood, on the E. side, not far from Watling Street, is a similar and slightly larger bank of earth which might be the remains of a coney warren.

In closing, I might mention that a friend recently noticed a farm worker in Gloucestershire digging holes in a bronze-age

burrow in order to encourage rabbits to burrow there. In times long before the discovery of gunpowder, man-made rabbit warrens must have had a greater importance than is now realised.

4. HESTON WINDMILL.—We have to thank G. W. Wright, of Belgrade Road, Hampton-on-Thames, for a note about an old windmill at Heston, Co. Middlesex.

“Fallen flakes from a defaced upright gravestone in the churchyard on the south side of Hampton Parish Church bear an inscription to ‘Mary Bryant, wife of John Bryant of Hounslow Heath Wind Mill in the Parish of Heston in the County of Middlesex, 1831.’ Her husband, John, and their sons, George and John Levi, died respectively in 1836, 1837 and 1839. In these days when windmills are so unusual it is worth while recording any allusion to an activity which formerly existed in almost every village. The Mill Field on the Ridgeway at Mill Hill and Barnet Gate Windmill at the top of Hendon Wood Lane, just outside the Middlesex Border, are reminders of what was once a commonplace.”

5. 18TH CENTURY COUNTY MAPS OF MIDDLESEX.—The *Hendon and Mill Hill Times*, which always shows a keen interest in the antiquities of North-West Middlesex, printed recently in its pages a map showing the road from Hampstead to Hendon in the 18th century before the Regents Park-Finchley Road was built. Apart from the milestones and a few private houses, such as Lord Southampton's at Fitzroy Farm, and Lord Mansfield at Caen Wood, the most important features would seem to be the Inns. The “Castle” on Hampstead Heath suggests that “Jack Straw's Castle” is a modern idea; then follow the “Bull and Bush,” the “Hare and Hounds,” the “Hoop” and “Swan” at Golders Green, and then the “Bull” at Hendon. An alternative name for the hamlet is Grole's Green for which there is not the slightest foundation. In 1496 John Godyere married a lady called Brent, and he was probably descended from John the Godere, mentioned in the Hendon Black Survey of 1321, whose task it was to round up straying cattle, and whose name, with a slight variation, still remains in southern Hendon to-day.

In a later issue of the paper there was printed a map of the road from Cow Green, on the Edgware Road or Watling Street, near Cricklewood, to Bushey Heath, turning off from the main Roman road before it reaches Sulloniaca. The map is dated 1801, and it marks Porter's Park (Earl Howe), Wrotham Park (Mr. Byng), Bentley House (Marquis of Abercorn), Pipers Green, Edgware Toll Gate, Red Hill (now mainly Burnt Oak), the Hyde, Silk Bridge, with a road forking up to Hendon Boroughs, and the old Welsh Harp by the River Brent at the fifth milestone out of London. At Edgware Toll Gate we read the legend "Pass with Kilburn Ticket," but on the journey towards London it seems to have been quite a common practice for market carts to form themselves into a convoy, and while the first carter was paying his toll and the gate was open "the remainder of the convoy whipped up their horses and dashed through before the keeper could close the gate."

6. PETER COLLINSON AND QUAKER BOTANISTS. In the Bulletin of the Friends Historical Association for Spring, 1948, Francis W. Purnell has an interesting paper on *Quaker Botanists*. Among the earlier members of the Society who studied Botany were Thomas Lawson of Westmoreland, James Logan of Philadelphia and Thomas Story, which last named has been the subject of a recently published and admirable Life by Mrs. E. S. Moore.

Peter Collinson has an interest for us because he lived at Peckham and later on at Ridgeway House, Mill Hill; he collected small cedars and sent them to adorn the Duke of Richmond's place at Goodwood; and he imported all kinds of plants and seeds from John Bartram, living at Darby, near Philadelphia, and distributed them to all the big estates in England. Collinson's Life was written some 23 years ago by our Honorary Editor.

Collinson argued with Linnaeus as to whether swallows spent the winter under water; suggested experiments to test the validity of Linnaeus's theory and mentioned that Admiral Sir Charles Wager when sailing southwards with his fleet had noticed the yardarms of his ships covered with swallows on their way to Africa. Linnaeus most unscientifically refused to admit his mistake, but after his death a confession of his error was discovered among his papers.

Collinson also brought Franklin's electrical theories before the Royal Society, but the members did not treat them seriously, thereby delaying electrical research perhaps by half a century or even more.

Collinson also financially helped Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina*, and was kind to young William Bartram when he visited England. Collinson's garden at Ridgeway House, Mill Hill, is now part of the grounds of Mill Hill School and the specimens of his zeal which still remain are carefully tended.

7. RICHARD ANTHONY SALISBURY, F.R.S. (1761-1829).—One of the seven who met in Hatchard's bookshop in Piccadilly on 7th March, 1804, to found the Horticultural Society, was R. A. Salisbury, whose real name was Markham, and who inherited "a taste for botany from very ancient blood," as his mother was descended from a sister of Henry Lyte, Elizabethan antiquary and botanist, who translated Dodoen's "Herball" into English. He was educated at Edinburgh University where he met the famous J. E. Smith, was left a large sum to enable him to study botany on condition that he changed his name, and on one occasion had a present of more than 150 East Indian plants from Sir Joseph Banks.

His marriage led to serious financial difficulties, so he left Yorkshire where he had been living, purchased Ridgeway House, Mill Hill, from the heirs of Peter Collinson, and represented himself as insolvent, so as to escape his creditors. His tricks to avoid paying money to his wife, and his recovery of old family estates in some skilful manner, his sojourn in a spunging house for debt; his arrest for other debts all point to an extremely and presumably dishonest character. His brother-in-law called him "the completest scoundrel that ever saw the sun . . . all was fraud fiction and deceit"; yet for all that he was a competent botanist and gardener, and helped the Horticultural Society not a little. A. P. de Candolle, the Swiss Botanist from Geneva, called him "un homme d'esprit vif et d'une pétulance extraordinaire."

He preferred the warmer climate of the south of England, and loved the "venerable Chestnuts, Magnolias, Cembra Pines, Cedars and Cypressess, relics of Peter Collinson's labours." He found *orchis militaris* and *orchis purpurea*, which were also Collinson's, but thieves had been stealing rare plants even

during his lifetime, and Salisbury wrote of *Crocus serotinus* that it was "one of the few rare plants which escaped the devastation of my predecessor at Mill Hill." I think that he must be referring to Michael Collinson who inherited property in Suffolk and moved some of his father's rarities down there.

Salisbury collected uncommon new plants from abroad, including Dahlias which he described in the Horticultural Society's *Transactions*. Other papers which he read to the Society before leaving Mill Hill dealt with the Tuberose, Nectarines and Peaches, the Red Doyenne Pear, the *Enkianthus quinqueflorus*.

In 1806, the year after Trafalgar, but the year of Jena, a group of Nonconformist ministers and laymen decided to found a school for boys. They were directed to Salisbury's house at Mill Hill, Ridgeway House, first built by one of the Nicoll family in 1525. The two who came to view it were Dr. John Pye-Smith, F.R.S., and Samuel Favell, a Common Councillor of London, and a keen reformer. They were depressed at the age of the house and the urgent need for expensive repairs. But when they went past the three mighty Cedar trees, the two enormous Portugal Laurels, the Oriental Plane, the Deciduous Cypress and the Tulip Tree, and others of Collinson's treasures which Linnaeus and Benjamin Franklin had admired, and saw the superb view, still superb to-day, of Harrow-on-the-Hill in the middle distance and perhaps Windsor Castle further away, they "thanked God and took courage." And Mill Hill School, founded in 1807, still flourishes to-day in the garden of Peter and Michael Collinson and Richard Salisbury, and two of its Boarding Houses are appropriately called "Collinson" and "Ridgeway."

8. LONDON AND WINDSOR RAILWAY.—At a meeting held at the Institute of Archæology, Regents Park, a few years ago it was agreed that anything up to and including Railways was included in the Science. So it is correct to record the centenary of the London and Windsor Railway, which took place on 24th August, 1948.

A hundred years previously the first train started from Waterloo station at eight o'clock in the morning, with carriages of all three classes, and arrived at Datchet, then the terminus, in one hour 25 minutes. Parr drove the Centaur to Datchet; Alkins drove the Meteor on the return journey. Although it

was a Tuesday, spectators at Twickenham and Staines came to meet the train in their Sunday clothes, and flags, meals, music, dancing and cricket were arranged.

The railway stations were built in Gothic style, the officials claimed that the 14 miles provided as splendid a railway ride as could be found in England, and the trains passed regularly up and down throughout the day, without the least accident or delay.

9. THE "DIEHARDS."—The famous Middlesex Regiment was the subject of a short history of its triumphs written by our honorary editor in the Magazine, "Our Empire Today," which sketched the stories of Albuhera and Inkerman, and outlined the Regiment's achievements in the two World Wars. Another dramatic incident in the story is the recent discovery of the unmarked grave of Drummer Dudley Stagpoole, V.C., D.C.M., the only man in history to win these two decorations in a single week.

He served with the Regiment in the Crimean War and was the first man to enter Sebastopol. He was decorated with the British and Turkish Crimean Medals; and nine years later was outstanding in the Maori War. He won the D.C.M. for gallantry at Kaipakopako, where he killed a Maori chief, and within the week his courage at Pontoko, where with eleven others he attacked 700 Maoris, and himself rescued two wounded comrades, won him the Victoria Cross. As he won the decorations in that order he always, quite incorrectly, wore them thus, in spite of many attempts to correct him.

The meeting of Captain R. W. J. Smith, O.C. Mill Hill Depot, and Curator of the "Diehards'" Museum, with Michael Doherty, a 67-year-old road sweeper and an old "Diehard," of Sanders Lane, Mill Hill, led to the discovery of Stagpoole's grave in Hendon Park Cemetery; and on 17th September, 1948, thirty-seven years after his death, a memorial stone was erected to his memory over his grave. It was unveiled by Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, and High Sheriff of Middlesex, in the presence of Brigadier G. B. Parkinson, representing the High Commissioner for New Zealand, and many officers and men of the Middlesex Depot. Quite recently the Middlesex Regiment provided the guard at Buckingham Palace, usually supplied by the Brigade of Guards.

10. GORDON AND BEATTY.—The dedication on 21st October, 1948, of the Jellicoe and Beatty memorials in Trafalgar Square, where they were hidden behind an "iron curtain" all the summer of 1948, reminds us that there is an interesting association between Beatty and Gordon, whose statue may be sent from the Square to Sandhurst.

On 2nd September, 1948, was the jubilee of the battle of Omdurman, in which Kitchener regained the ground lost at Gordon's heroic death in the Soudan.

There was a memorial service held in Gordon's Palace at Khartoum, and one of the officers in the Nile Gunboats which contributed to Kitchener's success and the tardy fulfilment of Gordon's own heroic mission was Lieutenant David Beatty, R.N. What a romantic juxtaposition would be brought about by the replacement of Gordon's statue in Trafalgar Square, from which it should only have been moved for safety's sake.

It was high time that some memorial for the Battle of Jutland should be erected in London, "the heart of an Empire which is the very creation of sea-power." A generation has passed since the end of the First World War, and rather longer was the gap between Trafalgar and the raising of the Nelson Column. The fact that no admirals between Trafalgar and Jutland called for memorials in the Square is tribute to the genius of Nelson and to the wise statesmanship enjoyed in England for more than a century. The two Admirals now commemorated in Trafalgar Square, after the unveiling by the Duke of Gloucester and the dedication by the Archbishop of Canterbury, were trusted and beloved, dignified and devoted to public service; and "the Navy and the Country hold them both in devoted remembrance and gratitude."

11. DANISH TREASURES AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM.—From 28th October, 1948, there was an exhibition of Danish art from the Stone Age onwards, designed to emphasise as well many Danish links with London and England. These included neolithic implements and pottery, amber beads of the Bronze Age and fair examples of the *lur*, the most ancient of extant wind instruments, dating from B.C. 1000 and still playable.

There was a notable oak carving of St. George and the Dragon, done by Hans Bruggemann about 1520, fine woven tapestries,

and things associated with Christian IV of Denmark, King James I's father-in-law. Magnificent Copenhagen porcelain included a set of 1,800 pieces intended for Catherine II of Russia, and Hans Anderson's correspondence with Charles Dickens added to the general interest.

12. STATUARY IN BATTERSEA PARK.—The success of the L.C.C. exhibition of modern statues all through the summer of 1948 led to the suggestion that steps might be taken to acquire many of these, besides others, for beautifying London. It was suggested in *Time and Tide* that there are innumerable sites in London itself and in the suburbs where such a plan might develop, including parks and squares, Cambridge Circus and the Marble Arch. The correspondent, C. H. Spiers of Brondesbury, complained of the miscellaneous ironmongery which the authorities so often give us in such public places—"railings of underground lavatories, gravel bins, traffic signal control boxes, Keep Left signs, telephone booths, bent gas-pipe barriers and so forth." He suggests that outlay of public funds on sculpture is as justified as outlay on concerts and other entertainments.

13. A BLOOMSBURY HOUSE.—We quote the following verses from *Tide and Tide*, by kind permission of the Editor, and of the writer.

A BLOOMSBURY HOUSE.

When this was built, that now, with its shell porch
 Furled like a petal, and the arched pediment,
 And the small bricks that glow, a muted rose,
 Like the autumnal leaf faded by nights of rain,
 Looks wearily on the street, up swaying ladders
 The workmen moved, with hod and trowel and plummet,
 In worn plush jerkins and torn moleskin caps,
 And a tenor voice was singing an air by Gluck.
 There, by the scaffolding, the architect
 Stood, like a drawing by Correggio,
 Held out his plan, and showed how these green fields
 Should march with houses, like a troop of Guards.
 And over the distant prospect, blue with mist,

Moved hounds and huntsmen. Hollowly the horn
 Sounds, like the voice of time, and with the echoes dies.
 Oh, fortunate brick, that, built to face the fields,
 Whose walls seem to have drained a century's sun
 Into the warmth, the distilled rose of dawn,
 Could not forsee the town's weary erosion,
 Could not forsee the futile drag of war,
 Neglect, and bombs, and decay's final shame.
 Unlike the human heart, that without profit
 Knows, and forsees, yet still cannot escape.

MARGARET STANLEY-WRENCH.

14. FEVERELL'S MIDDLESEX.—For the *Countryman* for Autumn, 1948, Sylvia Townsend Warner wrote a nostalgic paper, describing Feverell's homesickness for the Middlesex countryside of his childhood, now as irrecoverable as Atlantis.

Middlesex has been a place of "fields and elm coppices, calm Georgian mansions and squat farmsteads," and the heavy London clay had made it renowned for wheat, and later on for hay. In those days, as many of us can still remember, it was a place for tramps and Irishmen, who came for the hay harvest and left the ditches enriched with rubbish. The hedges were of hawthorn, elms gave shade to cattle, and the barns were old and in disrepair. Farms and inns and houses were Georgian boxes of deep red brick and rutted tiles. The cottages were well kept, and their gardens were bright with lilac and lilies, wallflowers and stocks, Canterbury bells, iris and London pride. And then there were the black tarred sheds for tools or for milking, and autumn mists rising out of clay soil.

Feverell enjoyed the poplars and the chestnut trees, the flat fields and the well-kept hedges, even the canal and the gasworks, never realising what changes the future had in store. He watched the new houses being built near the railway station and was even allowed by a friendly plumber to help put a bath into one of them. But he did not understand what was happening. "I saw my world being nibbled away, and continued to live in it, as though it, and I too, were eternal."

It is hardly necessary to ask to which part of Middlesex he is referring, for, had it not been for the Green Belt, there would not have been many acres in the County to which his lament would not apply.

15. LONDON SQUARES.—It is difficult to say whether these are a copy of the cloister garden of a Cathedral or Abbey, or of the Quadrangle at Oxford or a Court at Cambridge. They are certainly a feature of certain parts of well-developed London, especially the Bloomsbury area, so well laid out by the Dukes of Bedford. Many of these gardens, which of necessity suffered neglect during the war, are again looking neat and fresh, with wooden or wire enclosures and with most of their weeds cleared away. Concerts have been given in the garden of Russell Square during the summer of 1948, and the flowers are returning to form. But so many of the houses in the squares have been adapted for business purposes, and as residential areas the Bloomsbury squares can hardly hope to maintain their prestige.

16. A CITY GARDEN.—As a reference to William Kent's *Lost Treasures of London* will show, the Church of St. Anne and St. Agnes, completed by Wren in 1681, was badly damaged, but not beyond repair. Close to it is a small garden on the site of the church of St. John Zachary is a pleasant retreat for city workers in a badly war-damaged area. It was started by the Goldsmiths' Company, who hope to maintain it as an informal garden, and it certainly makes a most attractive resting-place in Gresham Street, just where Noble Street runs in, and quite close St. Martin le Grand and Aldersgate. From the garden can be seen the tower of St. Alban's, Wood Street. The Church was very badly damaged, if not destroyed on 29th December, 1940.

17. A GREEN PARK EYESORE.—The need for scrap iron called for the removal of railings from houses and gardens and parks. Their removal from the north side of the Green Park where it abuts on Piccadilly has been a distinct nuisance, as it has encouraged folk to use the grass instead of the Footpath. Some people claim that Piccadilly ought to be widened by cutting off a piece of the Park, but this is not necessary, as there is almost no cross traffic along that part of Piccadilly. But the grass has not been given a chance by the crowds who walk across this north-east corner every day. If a wire fence could be erected along the south side of Piccadilly and the public could be kept to the pavement and a few definite paths across the

Park a great improvement would be seen quite soon, and the present mud patch would disappear. No sooner had this paragraph been written than the fencing was announced. Walking along Piccadilly the other day I wondered as to the origin of the name Constitution Hill, and it seemed clear that there are two pieces of higher ground with small dells adjoining, while it is quite legitimate to call the piece of ground nearer to Buckingham Palace a hill.

18. A STATUE OF SHAKESPEARE.—On the portico of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, there has been for many years a statue of Shakespeare believed to be of plaster. It represents him standing with crossed legs, holding in one hand a parchment, and with the other pointing to a short base with carvings of male and female heads, and on the flat top a pile of books.

An examination revealed the fact that it was really made of lead, so it has been carefully restored, placed in the vestibule of the Theatre and formally unveiled.

19. THE UNSCARRED SPIRIT OF LONDON.—When the King and Queen, with the two Princesses, attended a reception at County Hall on 8th July, 1947, they were welcomed by the Chairman of the London County Council, Lady Nathan, wife of our Society's President. The King in his speech referred to the contrast in London since he last visited County Hall in Coronation year. Deep scars had been inflicted on the face of London, of which County Hall had had its share, and it would be long before all the marks of the enemy's savage attacks would disappear. The King continued: "I rejoice that on the spirit of Londoners there should be no scar. They are not down-hearted because of the past, but look to the future. Many citizens gave their lives, and many, alas, are even now homeless as a result of the war. The Queen and I admired them in their hour of trial, and we admire them now in their everyday lives. We are all very proud, as we always have been, to call them neighbours.

20. ST. AUGUSTINE AND ST. FAITH.—The Augustine to whose memory this church is dedicated is not the Bishop of Hippo, but the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Church of St. Faith was

originally in the Cathedral precincts, pulled down in 1256 when St. Pauls was extended eastwards and transferred to the Crypt. The parishioners, mostly stationers in Paternoster Row, were removed into the Jesus Chapel, also in the crypt, "as to a place," writes Stow, "more sufficient for largeness and light-someness." Pepys tells us that in the Great Fire of 1666 stocks of books and papers were removed to the Crypt for safety; but "the goods laid in the churchyard fired through the window those in St. Fayth's Church; and those coming to the warehouses' doors fired them, and burned all the books, and the pillars of the church . . . broke quite down . . . above £150,000 of books burned; all the great booksellers almost undone." After the Fire the rectories of St. Augustine and St. Faith were united, and the Church of St. Augustine was rebuilt by Wren.

A distinguished rector in the 18th century was Dr. John Douglas, who was later made Bishop of Carlisle, and then of Salisbury and died in 1807. He was present as an Army chaplain at the battle of Fontenoy; defended John Milton against the attacks of Laud, and championed the miracles of the New Testament against David Hume.

Twelve years ago a stray cat took refuge in all that is left of the old Church, mainly the Tower; and, during the Blitz of London, the cat, appropriately named "Faith," shielded her kitten in a corner of the rectory in spite of bombing and fire. "Roofs and masonry exploded, and the whole house exploded. Four floors fell through in front of Faith; fire and water and ruin were all round her. Yet she stayed calm and steadfast and waited for help. We rescued her in the early morning while the place was still burning and by the mercy of God she and her kitten were not only saved but were unhurt. God be thanked for His goodness and mercy to our dear little pet."

So runs the record that has been placed on the wall of the lower part of the Tower, now turned into a chapel, and next to it are two further tributes to the cat's courage. One is a certificate awarded by the Peoples' Dispensary for Sick Animals of the Poor for "steadfast courage in the Battle of Britain," and the other is a certificate of Honour from the Greenwich Village Humane League of New York. The "bravest cat in the world," as she was justly called, died on Tuesday, 28th September, 1948, and her story was recorded in *The Times* for 1st October.

21. THE MONUMENT.—It does not seem to have been decided what is to be the memorial of the German Fire of London in the early years of the Second World War. The Fire of 1666 was commemorated by the Monument erected near Billingsgate, and 202 feet high, its exact distance from the spot in Pudding Lane, where the Great Fire began.

Wren meant it to be a telescope for astronomical observations, but the vibration caused by traffic made that impossible. There are 345 steps to the summit, but the climb is well worth while if the air is clear enough to grant a distant view of the wonderful panorama.

In September, 1948, Captain Instone asked that the Monument might be tidied up, seeing that 28,000 visitors to it each year paid 3d. for admission. He complained that to the roof of the Attendants' enclosure was attached a label marked "Kippers only." The Chief Commoner announced that the City Surveyor had been instructed to draw up a report on the condition of the Monument with a view to effecting necessary improvements.

22. TOWER HILL.—The Mayor of Stepney made an admirable suggestion that the precincts of the Tower of London might serve as a site for a memorial of the Second World War.

Lord Wakefield some years ago founded the Tower Hill Improvement Trust in order to provide "a space for the recreation of mind and body," and the area is unrivalled in historic association and is flanked by such buildings as Trinity House, the Port of London Authority's Offices, the Church of All-Hallows (Toc H.) and the Royal Mint. Several of these buildings have been seriously damaged but all will be restored. In order to help All-Hallows, J. H. McConnell of the *Montreal Star* has given to the Church a chime of 18 bells, some of which reached England early in the summer of 1948. When H.M. the Queen laid the foundation stone of the east wall on 19th July, 1948, the bells were rung.

23. REBUILDING OF ALL HALLOWS.—It was in August, 1948, that H.M. the Queen laid the foundation stone for the rebuilding of the first of the bombed City Churches. Steel rods sent from U.S.A. (especially from Boston and Texas) have been sunk in

concrete by the site of the north aisle so as to carry the roof of the new Church. Steel, tiles and timber are coming from Canada, timber from U.S.A., and the architect, Lord Mottistone, hopes by Easter to have completed the north aisle as a church, later to be embodied in the finished building.

It is most satisfactory that all the famous mediæval brasses save one, which were buried and covered with asbestos sheets, have been recovered. It is still possible that this site, so near to remains of a Roman temple, may yield some relic of Christian faith during the occupation of Britain by the Romans. A very tiny mediæval stone coffin of rough workmanship was unearthed.

Services have not been allowed to lapse, but have been held in the chapels of the crypt and the undercroft and in the rebuilt chapel over the north porch. All this is of great interest to one who was for years after the First World War a member of the Council of Toc H, whose Mother Church this is; and who was present when the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VIII) attended service here, and afterwards lit the Toc H lamps in the Guildhall, also very badly damaged during the Blitz.

24.—“KENNY OF KENSINGTON GARDENS.”—The London Museum is to have its home in future not in Lancaster House, but in Kensington Palace, and a very attractive exchange it is sure to prove. At the same time, efforts are being made to collect the incredibly large amount of litter left daily in the royal parks by the public. “Kenny” is the first of a team of Shetland ponies, each with his litter cart, which are to be used to effect the clearance, and his early visits prompted many children to respond to the invitation to help in the collection.

25. LUNGS OF LONDON.—This phrase, first used by Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was probably applied to that remarkable three-mile country walk in the heart of West-End London, from Charing Cross to Kensington Palace, including St. James’s, Hyde and Green Parks and Kensington Gardens.

It was Queen Caroline who joined a number of ponds in Hyde Park to form the Serpentine, and her careful husband,

George II, thinking she would foot the bill, gave his consent. It was only after her death that he found that all the costs had been charged to his account. It was also Queen Caroline who proposed to Walpole that she should close Hyde Park and turn it into a private Royal garden. When she asked the probable price he replied that it would only cost "two or three Crowns."

A recent B.B.C. spokesman mentioned Orators' Corner, close to Cumberland Gate, where "sundry political, religious and non-descript speakers and tub-thumpers hold forth to any audience that will listen to them, and provide one of the best free entertainments in London."

A possible centenary will occur in a few years time, seeing that it was in 1853 that a Carpenter addressed a knot of people in Hyde Park, and to his great surprise, received no interference from anyone in authority.

26. DR. JOHNSON'S STATUE.—There are at least two memorials to the lexicographer in London, his house in Gough Square, a good specimen of post-Fire design, and his statue by Percy Fitzgerald, close to St. Clement Danes' Church in the Strand.

The Church was originally built for a Danish settlement in Anglo-Saxon London, and every year the Danish Colony used to attend a memorial service. The body of the Church was designed in 1682 by Wren, but the lower half of the tower is older; the upper stages and the steeple having been added by James Gibb in 1729. The pulpit was by Grinling Gibbons, and there was a memorial window to Dr. Johnson close to the pew in which he used to sit.

There were two anchors to commemorate St. Clement, a Pope who was martyred by being drowned with anchors tied to him.

There is a talk of leaving the Church as a ruin, subject to the consent of the Danish community. A letter by R. W. Chapman to *The Times* suggested that the best way of tidying up Johnson's statue would be to treat it as "scrap." There are probably a good many Londoners who would miss him sadly, so it is good to hear that Francis J. Gaster, of the Johnson Society of London, has placed £300 at the disposal of the Society for renovating the slightly damaged statue, and that the Church authorities have gratefully accepted the gift.

27. MULBERRY TREES IN THE CITY.—Trees are scarce enough in the City of London to justify keen interest in their well-being. A recent paragraph in an evening paper tells us that the Mulberry tree in the Drapers' Company garden in Throgmorton Avenue, which survived the great Fire of 1666 and Hitler's menace, is bearing berries this year, but the crop is not as good as usual. In Charterhouse Square there are ancient Mulberry trees whose berries are sent each year to the "Poor Brothers," who figure in Thackeray's "Newcombes."

The pensioners were not moved from the City with the school years ago when it left the Charterhouse for Godalming, but remained near their old home; and every evening the Curfew rings sixty times for the "Poor Brothers of Charterhouse."

28. MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES.—It is perhaps only natural that it has taken time to restore to their pre-war condition the London Museums and Picture Galleries, but the loan exhibitions which have filled up some of the empty spaces have been well worth while. Most of the Museums were damaged during the war, and only the Wallace Collection and the National Maritime Museum have been completely rehabilitated. For instance, the gallery built at the British Museum in 1939 by Lord Duveen for the Elgin Marbles was badly damaged by a bomb, and until restoration is possible they must be shown in their original room, recently redecorated. Considerable sections of the British Museum are still unrestored, partly due to the lack of the right kind of glass, and the ten years of war and its aftermath has given us a new generation of young folk who do not know the unrivalled, or at any rate unexcelled collections of scientific, artistic and historic importance which are to be found in London. A report of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries was published in October, 1948, regretting much of the Maritime Museum at Greenwich is still occupied; that 200,000 books in the British Museum Library were destroyed, and 30,000 volumes of provincial newspapers at Hendon. Owing to generous support from the Rockefeller Foundation storage structures for newspapers will be built at Hendon and a permanent microfilm library. As the available bookspace at the British Museum will be exhausted in three years, a new library is planned on adjacent land, and a new ethnographical building at the N.E. corner of the Museum site. The Indian

section at the Victoria and Albert Museum may then be moved to Bloomsbury.

It is probable that Apsley House and Ham House will be used as adjuncts to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

29. LONDRES.—The Travel Association of the United Kingdom publish an extremely well produced guide to London in French, with adequate maps of the Centre and of the Environs. The whole of the story is in French, and there are pictures and descriptions of St. Paul's, Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Hall and Abbey, the British Museum, National Gallery, the B.B.C., Staple Inn, the Guildhall, the Monument and the Tower, St. James's, Piccadilly and Shepherd's Market.

A particularly attractive picture is that of the Trooping of the Colour. The Legend reads as follows:—

“Un aperçu des splendeurs d'avant guerre. La Brigade de la Garde revenant de la Parade du Drapeau à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance de Sa Majesté le Roi. Le magnifique cérémonial de cette parade doit être bientôt restauré avec toute la couleur et le faste du temps de paix.”

And so it would have been in the summer of 1948, had not the Authorities suddenly got the alarm and cancelled the whole proceedings lest the full-dress uniforms of the Guards should be spoiled. As Four Winds remarked in *Time and Tide*: “It was too close an attention to gloomy meteorologist prophecies that led to the cancellation of the Trooping of the Colour, though there was clearly enough blue in the sky to make trousers for a whole regiment of Dutchmen.”

30. “LONDON, CITY OF MY AFFECTION.”—In a recent competition people were asked to write a short paragraph of “The City of My Affection,” and here is one of the best tributes to London:

“There are cities with nobler monuments, vaster cathedrals, and more turbulent histories. There are quieter, cleaner, better-planned cities.

But there is only one London.

She is the city of the Roman Wall and the shrine of Big Business, of the fashionable Park and the forgotten churchyard, of Beefeaters in the Conqueror's Tower and far-travelled ships in the Pool, of the Eton and Harrow match at Lord's and of hop-scotch in a back street, of cocktails at the Ritz and of a pint at the dockers' pub.

But she is much more than this. She is the epitome of British history; she is the shrine where worshippers of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton and a thousand other bearers of great names may worship; she is the Mecca of the Whittingtons; she is the home of refugees from the tyrannies of the world; she is the symbol of Freedom to mankind.

Her citizens, native or adopted, laugh at Macaulay's New Zealander. They know that no other city can boast such a past, such a present—or such a future."

This was appropriately published in *John O'London's Weekly*.

31. BANKSIDE.—The south side of the Thames, with so much of "chaos, rubbish and delapidation," is ripe for new development, especially as so much between Westminster and Waterloo Bridges was damaged during the war; and the land is to be used for a national theatre and for cultural and community centres, with a protecting embankment, at a total cost of £2 million. But changes of this kind have another side to be considered and 100 Thames-side families will have to move, some to L.C.C. housing estates a good way off, others into problematic quarters which may or may not materialise. The King's Head in Belvedere Road will be closed after a long history; and the Embankment Fellowship Centre, which helps ex-Servicemen, has no present hope of alternative accommodation. The clearing of the site is designed to provide room for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

It is not at present known exactly what is to happen to the famous Shot Tower, but sentiment has so far spared it. It was built in 1826, and molten lead dropped 120 feet cools and forms small globulgs, used for sporting guns.

Any allusion to Southwark at once brings back a host of memories of events in history, in novel or in the drama. When London Bridge was the only one over the Thames in the metropolitan area, the Borough High Street took all the traffic

going from the metropolis into Kent and Sussex and to the Continent.

A coloured map of Ancient Southwark, drawn by J. P. Sayer for the *Strand Magazine*, gave an artistic survey of the history of London's 26th ward. St. Thomas's Hospital (1306-1870) and Church recall Thomas à Becket and his contest with Henry II; St. Saviour's Southwark is really the Priory Church of St. Mary Overy, and is the burial place of Shakespeare's brother, Edmund, and of John Gower; Clinkstreet recalls the Clink Prison, owned by the Bishop of Winchester, whose town house was close by, and burned by the Gordon Rioters in 1780; Guy's Hospital has produced many famous doctors, including John Keats; the Catherine Wheel (demolished in 1869), the Tabard (where Chaucer met his pilgrims) and the George (London's last galleried inn) remind us that many visitors to London preferred to put up on the south side of the Thames.

West of Winchester House were the Globe and Rose Theatres and the Bear Garden; John Harvard, who founded America's oldest University, was baptised at St. Saviour's in 1607; Marshalsea Road recalls the famous, or should we say infamous prison, where Dickens' father was lodged, and which he immortalized in "Little Dorrit"; the King's Bench Prison was in the next street, while the Mint, founded by Henry VIII, gave its name to a very unsavoury region, where Jonathan Wild and Jack Shepherd and many other debtors managed to claim freedom from arrest.

The masts and semaphores of "Watson's Telegraph to the Downs," which took the place now occupied by "Wireless" were erected on a Shot Tower, by the river and nearby St. Olave, of which "Tooley" Street is a Cockney abbreviation.

Barclay Perkins Brewery was bought by David Barclay after the death of Henry Thrale of Streatham, Johnson's friend; and Samuel, who was one of Thrale's executors, made his famous announcement at the sale. "Sir, we are not here to sell a parcel of boilers and vats, but the potentiality of growing rich beyond the dreams of avarice."

32. THE LONDONERS' WATER.—The story of London's water supply in the past is fascinating, and it is vital to realise that after the Great Plague and Great Fire a decent water supply helped to prevent a repetition of either catastrophe.

With the colossal increase of the population of Greater London to well over 8 million the problem is difficult, but in N.W. London all the water-undertakings, Company and Municipal, have been adequately co-ordinated. A pure and wholesome supply of water is provided, a fine record of public service has been made, and the Colne Valley Water Company softens its water and has to allow nearly a quarter of the total demand for garden watering and car cleaning. It is suggested that domestic tanks and water butts might do a great deal to increase the supply of water available for domestic and industrial use.

33. PARAPLEGIA AT OSTERLEY.—The Ministry of Pensions have erected a hostel for those who suffer from "paralysis of the lower extremities through injury or disease of the spinal cord." With the treatment now given them such patients can overcome much of their disability, and Osterley has been chosen for their hostel, being just off the Great West Road, close to many factories of modern light industry, where these paraplegics can be employed.

Three big houses were taken over, one being used for the staff; and in the large gardens there has been erected a hostel on one floor, with eight wards and 72 beds. Doors and corridors are wide enough for the hand-propelled chairs; tables are designed to be just the right height; and motor chairs or motor-cycles are provided to take cripples to their jobs at the factories.

34. LONDON'S RIVER.—The Thames was the main highway of London for centuries, and even in quite modern times the steamers that took passengers up and down the river were immensely popular. Of course the lower reaches below London Bridge have continued to maintain their busy activity, but the chances of a pleasure trip have been very remote in later years. John Jones's *The Romance of London's River*, illustrated by Frank Mason, and Sydney Jones's *Thames Triumphant*, with his own inimitable illustrations, kept in our minds the glories of the past; and Sir Alan Herbert from time to time pleaded for "Water-buses." At last, in the summer of 1948, a new service was opened, plying between Putney and Tower Pier, with an extension to Greenwich. The service was formally inaugurated

at Charing Cross Pier, and its popularity was at once made obvious.

35. BEATING THE BOUNDS AT HENDON.—*Country Life* had an article on 30th April, 1948, on Beating the Bounds and this led to a correspondence on the subject in which A. G. Clarke, of the Mill Hill and Hendon Historical Society, founded in 1929, gave some account of the ceremony in Hendon. The ceremony is a revival, not a survival, and it seems to be the nearest ceremony to Stow's London, where the custom was until recently performed in the parishes of St. Clement Danes, and St. Laurence, Jewry, with due beating of parish marks and bumping of choir boys. In 1946 and 1947 the Society chose remnants of Rusticity, Hendon's ration of the Green Belt, and on the way passed fields with quaint names, the Round About, Witching Hill and Further Stockings (a wood cut down) and the edge of Barham (not really Boreham) Wood. This part of the boundary runs along the ditch outside our Honorary Editor's house, Ridgeway, at the top of Woodcock Hill, in Barnet Lane, Elstree, where are the county, hundred, parish, petty sessional, local governmental, parliamentary boundaries and possibly also Grim's Dyke, seven boundaries in all.

It used to take the Steward of the Lord of the Manor and his party two days to complete the outbounds of Hendon, so that the Society has done good work in three afternoons. This year the piece tackled was the part that impinged on the old parish of St. John's Hampstead, and the boundary, as explained by Mr. J. L. Naimaster, was also that between Middlesex and London, and between the Hundreds of Gore and Ossulton.

Several "bumps" were made along the Finchley Road, where Mr. Kenneth Reid took up the story and hinted that some houses may owe rates to two adjacent boroughs as the boundary passes through their gardens.

At Hermitage Lane (Hendon) and Platts Lane (Hampstead) there are several numbered stones. Here was Blackett's Farm, and the home of John Child, who took part in Wat Tyler's Rebellion, and gave his name to Child's Hill. Cowhouse Farm was later called Avenue Farm, and in Child's Hill House lived Thomas Platt, who gave his name to the Lane.

Near the Leg of Mutton Pond, Mr. Percy Davenport spoke of the association of Hendon and Hampstead, both belonging to the Abbey of Westminster for about 600 years.

Golder's Hill Park, Ivy House, where lived Pavlova, the dancer, Wyldes and the land belonging formerly to Eton College were next visited; and then came a sight of the Heath.

In 1871, 220 acres of Hampstead Heath were bought for £45,000, though a previous Lord of the Manor had valued them for building at two and a half million. In 1889, a further 261 acres cost £302,000.

Two stones shown on maps of 200 years ago were invisible, and could not be "bumped," but golfers reported one to be smothered in nettles, the other concealed by a tee.

36. CHISWICK HOUSE.—Some local authorities are finding the upkeep of historic buildings something of a problem, and in some cases are trying to present them to the National Trust or to the Ministry of Works to economise in local rates. Chiswick House was owned by the Middlesex County Council, and the Brentford and Chiswick Borough Council were lessees. With its temples, statues and adjacent buildings, it is now the property of the Ministry of Works, but the 66 acres of garden will still be maintained by the local Council.

There was an earlier house close to the present one, which was built between 1727 and 1736 by the third Earl of Burlington, assisted by his *protégé*, William Kent, a name familiar to our Society. His town house, on the North side of Piccadilly, is now the home of the Royal Academy, the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries and other similar groups.

Chiswick House is modelled on Palladio's famous Villa Capra at Vicenza, a house immensely admired by Lord Burlington, who planned to use his suburban property as a home for the art collections which he had made in his continental travels.

It helped to popularise and prolong the Palladian epoch in English architecture, and caused our architects to adhere to the classical style instead of doing like the continent, and "indulging in the fantasies of the baroque." Such buildings as the Royal Exchange, Mill Hill School and Haileybury College owe much to the posthumous influence of Burlington. It was often described as an elaborate and costly play-thing, not a home. Lord Hervey called it "too small to inhabit and too large to hang on one's watch."

At Beaufort House in Chelsea Inigo Jones had erected a typical gateway in his well-known style; and in 1737 Sir Hans

Sloane gave it to his friend Lord Burlington. It was moved from Chelsea to Chiswick, an event which gave rise to Pope's well-known verse:—

Passenger.

“O Gate, how com'st thou here?”

Gate.

I was brought from Chelsea last year,
 Batter'd with wind and weather;
 Inigo Jones put me together.
 Sir Hans Sloane
 Let me alone,
 Burlington brought me hither.”

When Burlington died in 1753 Chiswick House went to his daughter, who married a Cavendish, and whose son became Duke of Devonshire, and in 1774 married the famous Lady Georgiana Spencer. In 1788 the earlier house adjoining Burlington's villa was pulled down, and Chiswick House had two Palladian wings added to it designed by James Wyatt.

In September, 1806, the year after Trafalgar, Charles James Fox, “the life and soul of the stoutest and most disinterested struggle for principle that ever has been fought out by voice and pen” closed his “unquiet and disappointed life” at Chiswick House. But during his short time in office after the death of William Pitt, the younger, he had been able to help his friend Wilberforce in bringing to an end the Slave Trade through the British Empire.

Twenty years later, George Canning, the statesman who “called the New World into existence in order to redress the balance of the old,” also died at Chiswick House thus adding to its historic fame.

King Edward VII, while Prince of Wales, leased the house from the Duke of Devonshire as a family residence.

As *The Times* pointed out that “by its dignified symmetry and the richness of its decorations, Chiswick House reminds us of an age that could afford to put form before function; it also reminds us of the respectable ancestry of the word villa, which subsequently declined so far from its aristocratic beginnings that it came to signify, first, the smug Italianate residences built for the newly rich of the nineteenth century on the outskirts of the

town, and later the semi-detached dwellings out of which the speculative builder manufactured contemporary suburbia."

The leader-writer in *The Times* pleaded for the restoration and retention of the grounds surrounding Burlington's villa, with the statues, vases and ornaments, some brought from Hadrian's Tivoli Villa, the double line of limes and cedars which lead up to the main entrance, and the groves and shrubberies, all of which helped to revolutionise garden design at the end of the 18th century.

One reason given for restoring the gardens was the suggestion that they are situated "in what has since become one of London's dreariest suburbs."

It is not surprising that a Chiswick resident wrote to defend his suburb from the charge of dreariness. He invited the critic to visit the water-fronts of Chiswick Mall and Strand-on-the-Green; the grass of Duke's Meadows and Turnham Green; Norman Shaw's early garden city of the eighties, Bedford Park; the Georgian houses of Brentford Butts; Gunnersbury House, the former home of the Rothschilds, and Boston Manor, the Elizabethan home of the Clitheroes. He made out a very good case for thinking that far from being dreary Chiswick has more amenities than most inner suburbs of London.

About 40 years ago the Duke of Devonshire leased Chiswick House for use as a private mental hospital. On the expiration of the lease in 1928 Brentford and Chiswick were able to secure the property from the Duke for £80,000, three-quarters of which was contributed by Middlesex. The local Council was granted a 999 year's lease and the grounds were opened to the public in July, 1929, by the late Duke of Kent.

Unfortunately the Council has not found itself able to repair the house, though considerable work was done between 1939 and 1941, and for 10 years and more it has been suffering from dry-rot and would have soon become a complete wreck. Owners and lessees have made this gift to the Ministry of Works under the Ancient Monuments Act, and it will be a long while before the repairs can be completed.

There is a narrow lake in the grounds, about 2,000 feet long, spanned by a bridge in classic style; there is a cricket ground used by a local club, an Italian garden, and a big greenhouse designed by Sir Joseph Paxton.

It would have been a thousand pities if this historic house and delightful grounds had not been saved, as Chiswick House

is a landmark in the story of English architecture, and "the richest and most complete example internally of the Palladian revival still existing in England."

37. A LONDON QUIZ.—Any effort to interest people in the history of London is to be commended, and we therefore comment on a question paper set to readers of the *Evening Standard* in May, 1948, by W. Norman, Chief Librarian.

He asks who unveiled in 1897 a marble statue of Sarah Siddons at Paddington Green, famous for its earlier association with Little Polly Perkins. Was it Sarah Bernhardt, Bernard Shaw or Henry Irving? It was of course the last named. "Ruffians' Hall" was applied to Smithfield, and not to Billingsgate or Leadenhall. John Taylor, the Water Poet and Long Acre innkeeper, was noted for eccentric journeys, and once set off in a paper boat on the Thames with fish tied to canes for oars. Turner in 1808 was made Professor of Perspective at the Royal Academy, then in Somerset House; and young gallants who paraded in St. Paul's were called Paul's Walkers, and not Ludgate Loungers or Cathedral Drones.

In the London Museum, soon to be on show at Kensington Palace, there will be exhibited the skull of Richard Brandon. Was he associated with the murder of Edward V, the Gunpowder Plot, or the beheading of Charles I? Here again, it was the last named.

38. DWINDLING OF GRAVEL RESERVES.—The Stationery Office published in October, 1946, recommendations with regard to the use of gravel in building Greater London, which is of interest to all dwellers in the Metropolitan area and its suburbs and satellites, and also to researchers into Pre-history and the Anglo-Saxon periods of our story.

In the Plan for Greater London it was assumed that there were abundant gravel reserves, but later evidence contradicts this assumption.

The chief areas where gravel occurs near London are South Essex, North-West Kent, Colchester, which do not concern our Society; Western London along the Thames Valley, and the Lea; and the Vale of St. Albans, which is a four-mile wide belt from Rickmansworth to Ware. It was recommended that old

gravel pits should be restored to normal use, and that when building was being developed the gravel should first be removed. Areas should be earmarked as gravel-winning, to include 2,700 acres in Middlesex, and gravel should have priority in all development schemes. It was even urged that the Green Belt should be reconsidered in the light of the national demand for gravel. The national need for gravel was to take precedence over the amenity interest, in spite of any temporary damage which might thereby be caused. To illustrate ways of supplying as much sand and gravel as possible without interfering too much with agriculture or the amenities of the Countryside there was an exhibition at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, 19, St. James's Square.

In other parts of the country, notably near Oxford, ruthless exploitation of gravel has completely effaced all kinds of records of primitive man, and the utmost care will be required in Middlesex as well as elsewhere to preserve and at any rate to observe traces of a prehistoric age.

39. LONDON'S NEW LOOK.—This is "expressed in a hundred different ways, by the riot of flowers outside Buckingham Palace, by a white-smocked painter brightening a house or hotel, by the immaculate stonework of a newly-cleaned statue."

It has been the task of the L.C.C. and of the Ministry of Works to clear away all that was left of air-raid precautions, and defence installations; to tidy up London's 43 major open spaces; including the five Royal Parks; to plant thousands of trees such as Queen Elizabeth Wood and Victory Plantation; and to plant flowers and shrubs everywhere. In three only of the parks maintained by the Ministry of Works, over 350,000 blooms were planted in 1948; St. James's Park and Regent's Park have had an amazing richness of colour during the summer, and 25,000 rose trees have been planted in the famous Queen Mary's garden in Regent's Park.

Threadbare lawns and trampled shrubberies have shown that unprotected rustic beauty needs protection, and there is to be some restoration of low railings along the south side of Piccadilly. The 50 gardeners who work on the 5,000 acres of London's Central Parks have planted miles of hedges to do the work of the fences. The new fencing will not be the old seven-foot iron railing, but chain link on concrete posts costing £7 for every

five yards. The other three Parks, Hyde, St. James's and Kensington Gardens, will shortly be dealt with.

Regent's Park has been enlarged and the L.C.C. is acquiring 300 new acres. Bombed sites are remaining as open spaces with well planted gardens, notably a big area in much-bombed Stepney.

Two recent visits to Switzerland have emphasised the importance of window boxes, and these are now provided in the Government offices of Whitehall.

40. STATUE-CLEANING IN LONDON.—The 220 statues and memorials in the Metropolitan area have all been given something of a "Wash- and brush-up." Bronze memorials are washed with water, scrubbed and rubbed with felt pad and cotton waste. Marble ones have soap and water followed by polishing. The Albert Memorial, with its 200 separate figures, has received special treatment, and has responded well. Nelson's statue of course gets cleaned only once every quarter of a century, so that the erection of scaffolding and the novel spectacle of steeplejacks in the summer of 1948 provided Londoners with an unusual experience. Sir Charles Napier's statue was cleaned only just in time for the re-opening of the Square on Trafalgar Day, 1948.

41. CITY REPLANNING.—The replanning and rebuilding of the City of London after the German Blitz early in the war naturally challenges comparison with similar problems after the Great Fire nearly three hundred years ago. Walter G. Bell, a former Vice-President of our Society, wrote what is the definitive book on the Great Fire itself, and T. F. Reddaway, a member of our Council, has discussed fully and probably finally the rebuilding after the Fire. Another member, William Kent, has written the standard volume on the damage done by the Blitz, and here is the outline of the plan for post-war reconstruction. It will be some years before an adequate book on the subject can be attempted.

Out of the 272 acres which the City Corporation wanted to be made subject to compulsory purchase the Minister of Town and Country Planning has decided to take over 230 acres. Some railways are excluded, the approaches to stations at

Holborn Viaduct, Cannon Street and Fenchurch Street. Several City Churches are excluded, St. Andrew, Holborn, the City Temple, St. Giles Cripplegate, St. Mary-le-Bow, St. James Garlickhithe, St. Mary Aldermanbury, All Hallows-by-the-Tower, St. Botolph Aldgate. Other areas are land between Aldgate High Street, Minories and the City Boundary; between Queen Street Place, Upper Thames Street, Queen Hithe Dock and the River; and on both sides of Holborn Viaduct between Holborn and Farringdon Street.

42. THE LONDON SOCIETY.—We already have, as a Society, close contacts with the Ecclesiological Society, and the Friends of the City Churches, and all this co-operation makes for efficiency and the power to influence public opinion in the preservation of ancient buildings. We are now associated with the London Society by the election of our Chairman of Council as a member of the Society, of its Council and its Executive Committee; while our President, Lord Nathan, is a Vice-President of the London Society. N. G. B.-J.

43. OLD SOUTHWARK RELICS.—The exhibition of Old Southwark relics organised by *Over the Bridge* in the Chapter House of the cathedral covered a period of nearly 2,000 years in the history of the borough. It was a small exhibition in quantity, but in quality and conception most satisfying. Late 15th-century wooden bosses from the roof of St. Mary Overies, one of which represented the Devil swallowing Judas Iscariot, were a reminder of the sly humour so often associated with the mediæval church. The exhibition included a First Folio and books and papers of Alleyn from Dulwich, as well as an account book and diary of Henslowe in which the daily receipts of the Rose and Fortune were recorded. It was pleasant too, to find references to Barclay and Perkins and their families in a collection of Mrs. Thrale's letters, while, for the present writer at least, the fine collection of photographs and prints of the galleried inns of Southwark attracted and held the attention above all else. F. W. M. D.